

News Release

June 30, 2012 9:00 p.m. (MST)

Contact: Laura McConnell, PIO

www.INCIWEB.org

Information office 307-212-4844*

*Staffed 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (24 hour recorded message)



Arapaho Fire Burns Through the Night – Acreage Burned Multiplies

The Arapaho Fire burned late into the night despite cooler temperatures and higher relative humidity. Firefighters at the Incident Command Post (ICP) could still see a glow from the fire late into the evening. Strong, gusting winds throughout the night helped push the fire. The fire is burning mostly towards the east; however gusting winds, and terrain, have also affected fire's direction. This fire is a full suppression fire.

On Friday crews worked on the south end of the fire to begin establishing an anchor point.ⁱ The majority of resources worked to protect homes and focus on safely assisting residents out of the area. The Incident Management Team is working with County Sheriff's offices and local utility companies to ensure the location of local infrastructure i.e. utility lines.

Multiple aviation resources were available to assist in Friday's suppression efforts. The following aviation resources were on the incident assisting: one Type 3 helicopter, two air attack platforms to observe fire activity and direction, two Type 1 heli-tankers, three Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs), and four large heavy air tankers. Aviation resources refilled their gas and retardant tanks at the Casper and Grand Junction tanker bases, as well as the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport in Jefferson County, Colorado. These airports have specific equipment to mix and refill the retardant that is being used on this incident. In addition to the aviation resources approximately 212 firefighters were on the fireline today. Additional crews, engines, and aviation resources are expected to arrive throughout the day.

Today is the first day that Red Flag Warnings are not in place. Additional hand crews, aviation and engines are expected to begin arriving and checking in today. Firefighters can expect another hot, dry and windy day. There is a chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon bringing winds of 10-15 miles per hour (mph), with gusts up to 25 mph. Upslope and terrain driven winds could pose more challenges to suppression efforts.

Fire behavior remains intense. Active burning is still occurring in the late night and early morning hours. Downhill runs and torching were observed. There is a high probability of spotting ahead of the fire by approximately one-half to one full mile.

Safety of the public and firefighters remains the number one priority. Additional safety concerns consist of fatigue, dehydration, steep and rocky terrain, and increased fire traffic along county roads.

County Road and Bridge crews assisted fire personnel on Friday to improve roads needed for suppression efforts.

Additional information, maps and photos will be posted at www.INCIWEB.org.

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Fire stats at a glance:

Start Date: June 27th, 2012

Cause: Under investigation

Acreage: 36,847

Personnel: 212

Crews: 6

Containment: 0%

Cooperating Agencies: Albany County, Converse County, Platte County, USFS, State of Wyoming

Aviation :(2) Type 1 & (2) Type 3 Helicopters

Engines: 19

Injuries: 0

Structures destroyed: Undetermined until an assessment can be done.

Structures/outbuildings threatened: 200

ⁱ Anchor Point: An advantageous location, usually a barrier to fire spread, from which to start constructing fireline. The anchor point is used to minimize the chance being flanked by a fire while fireline is being constructed. NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology: <http://tinyurl.com/WildlandFireTerms>